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"I Wish I Could."

You *wish* you could? Well, you *can*, if you will go at it, determined to do it; instead of sitting down, like a dunce, and foolishly wishing you could.

What good did you ever know done by wishing? Did Fulton build a steamboat by wishing? Did Washington achieve the independence of his country by wishing?—Did Alexander conquer the world by wishing?

Did you ever know a farm cleared, or a crop raised by wishing? Did you ever know any great reform in the moral or physical world produced by wishing?

No, sir. All these results have been produced by *determined energy and perseverance*. The energetic man—the man who really produces something of value, does not sit down, and in drawling language, as he sees or hears what others have done, *wish he could do so*.

What one man *has* done, another *can* do, if he has the same energy and perseverance. The best orator the world ever produced, had so great an impediment in his speech, that he had to have gravel-stones in his mouth before he could articulate. By energy and perseverance, he overcame it; and by his eloquence swayed the councils of the world.—Suppose he had sat down, and in a whining tone had said, I wish I could talk plain!—or Alexander had said, I wish I could conquer the world!—or Washington, I wish I could liberate my country!—or Fulton, I wish I could propel a boat by steam! How much would they have accomplished?—Nothing!—Nothing!—Nothing! Every man is the architect of his own fortune; and one is more successful than another, because he is more energetic. This is the secret of success. Every one who has risen to eminence, has had to overcome difficulties, which frighten the irresolute, and make them exclaim, *I wish I could*. The acts they perform, which to others appear so easy, have cost them many an anxious hour, spent by the "*wishing class*" in sleep. An energetic man never *wishes*—he *determines* and then goes at it.

If you "*wish* you could do it," then cast aside this desponding, whining, wishing habit. Strip off your coat—roll up your sleeves—and having determined what you will do, pitch into it, and you *can* do it.

"Why look ye sad?"

Be stirring as the time: be fire with fire;
Threaten the threatener, and outface the brow
Of bragging horror: so shall inferior eyes,
That borrow their behavior from the great,
Grow great by your example; and put on
The dauntless spirit of resolution."

[Ohio Farmer.]

NOTIONS OF BEAUTY.—The Japanese women gild their teeth, the Indians paint them red, whilst in Guzarat the pearl of the teeth to be beautiful must be dyed black. The ladies of Arabia stain their fingers and toes red, their eyebrows black, and their lips blue. In Persia, they paint a black streak round the eyes, and ornament their faces with various figures. In Greenland the women color their faces with blue and yellow, whilst the Hottentot women paint in compartments of red and black. Hindoo females, when desirous of appearing particularly lovely, smear themselves with a mixture of saffron, tumeric and grease. In ancient Persia an aquiline nose was often thought worthy of the crown; but the Sumatran mother carefully flattens the nose of her daughter. An African beauty must have small eyes, thick lips, and a large flat nose.

On account of the high price of beef and the scarcity of cattle in the west, the Philadelphia North American recommends the introduction of beef cattle from Venezuela, South America.

The Kane Relief Expedition.

The New York Commercial Advertiser has the following notice of the outfit, &c., of the two ships that have just started to the Polar regions in search of Dr. Kane and his crew, who two years ago sailed from New York for the purpose of ascertaining what had become of Sir John Franklin:

"The propeller Arctic is of about 250 tons register, was built at Philadelphia, and was originally intended for light-ship service, but was purchased for this expedition at a cost of \$30,000. The barque Release measures 327 tons, and is almost new, having only made two voyages. She cost \$27,000. Both vessels have been fitted up with every view to substantial service; both of them have been strongly braced to enable them to sustain a large amount of lateral pressure with heavy sister keelsons, four bilge keelsons, and too heavy breast hooks; forward they are strengthened by heavy athwart-ship beams and knees; running fore and aft are heavy beams, 13 by 9 inches, five feet apart, each beam strengthened by four dagger knees, two forward and two aft, and two hanging knees; each sampson post amidships has two heavy iron rods running through it and bolted through the sister and main keelsons to keep the decks from buckling up; the stanchions fore and aft have each four extra knees, and on each quarter heavy live oak beams have been let in.

The decks are double planked and caulked, and the inner surfaces of the decks and sides are covered with cork to prevent the condensations from freezing. The bows are filled with every conceivable variety of timber-bracing, and are divided off from the rest of the vessel by a substantial water-tight bulkhead, so that in case of collision with icebergs, or should the bows by any chance be stove in or nipped off—as is not unfrequently the case—the vessel would still float if not long enough to bring the crew back to port, certainly for a space of time sufficient to allow those on board to provision and prepare their boats and sledges, and escape over the ice or by water, before the vessel would sink. The outside of the vessel has, in like manner, been substantially strengthened.

The crew of the barque will be lodged on deck, being furnished at option with winter quarters below. The winter quarters of the officers are on half-deck below the spar-deck, and about four feet in height. The propeller's crew will lodge in the top-gallant fore-castle. The expedition is provisioned with rations for two years, which, with the extras, will last a three years' cruise. The food of officers and men is alike and consists mainly of concentrated meat, soups, patent meat biscuit, self-raising flour, limejuice, cabbage, preserved potatoes, pickles, whiskey, &c. The supplies include about 20,000 pounds of dried meats and soups, and 15,000 pounds of preserved vegetables.

A large quantity of clothing suitable to the Arctic climate will also be taken out, among which are about 500 pairs of woolen stockings. Together, the vessels take out 300 tons of coal for the purpose of heating and the use of the propeller, which consumes about five tons daily.

For the navigation of the northern sea many curious implements have been provided—each vessel carries a full complement of ice anchors, of from 15 to 100 lbs. weight—india-rubber boats, sledges, dogs and whale boats—indeed, everything which ingenuity can invent for the success of the enterprising mariners has been furnished and effected.

Mr. Henry Grinnell with his usual solicitude has personally superintended the preparation of the preserved meats, and has given a general supervision of the entire outfit.

We have already stated that by the courtesy of John Barrow, Esq., secretary of the

British admiralty, Commander Hartstein, has been furnished with the more recent maps and charts of the Arctic regions. The expedition is well manned and well officered, and there is every reason to hope that it will be successful in discovering and affording relief to the missing party. Two years have elapsed since Dr. Kane, with a crew of sixteen men, set sail from this port in the little barque Advance, for the Arctic seas in search of Sir John Franklin. His vessel was provisioned for a three years' cruise, which it was supposed might, by fishing and hunting, be made to last for one or two years longer. Since July, 1853, Dr. Kane and his party have not been heard from, and it is supposed that during the summer of that year he entered Smith's sound and pushed through to discover the supposed open sea beyond, where the imagined Franklin had gone. The following winter was one of extreme severity, and the conclusion is that the Advance was so firmly frozen up that the succeeding summer did not release her from the ice. Dr. Kane intended before entering Smith's sound to leave a supply of provisions at Cape Alexander, and it is probable that he has returned to and is now at that place."

PLANTS IN A BED-ROOM.—Mr. D. Beaton, in the Cottage Gardener, remarks that, "although it is quite true that plants do vitiate the air of a room to comparatively a fractional degree, it is equally well ascertained that they consume and destroy a very great deal of foul air, and that without foul air, such as would kill a man, plants could not be kept alive at all. We gardeners know this fact from our every-day experience. We cannot grow plants so well or so quickly in the sweetest air as in a stinking hotbed.—All the animal creation vitiates the common air every time each one breathes the breath of life or life-sustaining air; and were it not that all the vegetable kingdom depend on this vitiated air for part of their subsistence, and a great part too, this world would have been at an end as soon as animals covered the face of the earth. Therefore, and without the shadow of a doubt, plants are the best purifiers of all the agents that have yet been known to cleanse the air of a bedroom or any other room in a house, provided always that such plants are not in bloom, or at least do not bear bloom with a strong scent."

THE BOY FARMERS.—A Maine paper tells a good story of two boys, one 13, the other 11, who on account of the sickness of their father, were left to work the farm. They thoroughly plowed and cross plowed three acres of rather rough ground, which the father then sowed, and they harrowed three times over. They also assisted in clearing one acre of new land which was sown with wheat. It grew well especially the first sown, but at harvest, the father being still sick, there was none to gather the grain but those little lads. Having neither strength nor skill to use the cradle, they grasped the sickle with resolute hands, and reaping what they could each day, persevered until the whole four acres was thus harvested by them alone. The product of this crop would command in market \$135, and they did a good deal of work on the farm beside. This shows what boys can do if they really set about it, and make work of work, and play of play—not trying to do both at once.

ANTS AND MOTHS.—Messrs. Editors: In reply to your correspondent, who has suffered in common with hosts of others from the little red ant, let me say—that a small bottle of turpentine, without any cork, placed in the place they frequent, and a little of it sprinkled on the shelf or piece of muslin will drive them off—the smell of turpentine is enough for them and they leave on smell.—Moths like it no better.—[Phil. Ledger.]